Shoot up in unemployment rate

*491. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unemployment rate for the country has shot up significantly from 8.87 percent in 2001-02 to 9.11 percent in 2004-05;

(b) whether it is also a fact that employment in the organized sector has declined between 2001 and 2003 in both public and private sectors; and

(c) if so, the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO) (a) to (c): Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was undertaken during 1999-2000. As per these surveys, unemployment rate in the country on current daily status basis has gone up from approximately 6.03 percent in 1993-94 to 7.32 percent in 1999-2000.

It is a fact that employment in both Public and Private organised sectors has gone down during the period 2001-2003.

Government is tackling the problem of unemployment in its various facets. In view of the fact that scope for additional employment creation is not much in the organised sector, government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period both in organised and unorganised sectors taken together with special emphasis on labour intensive sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information communication technology, tourism and other services. Besides this, a National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has been introduced in Parliament, which provides for 100 days of employment in a year for poor families in the rural areas. A food for work programme has already been launched in selected backward districts of the country.